



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011 EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

At-Large Council member

Kelly Porter

City Administrator

Vincent E. Jones

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



This summer I was fortunate again to host the **Mayor's Tuesday Night Socials**. These events are designed to allow residents and citizens to come together within their community to speak with representatives from the utility companies and other social organizations and businesses. Through the **Mayor's Tuesday Night Socials** our community gains direct access to persons who are in a position to answer questions they may have.

We had representatives from Pepco, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Washington Gas and Safe Link. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions about their utility bills, who to contact in cases of emergency and general customer service questions. We were able to provide free Cell Phones to qualified applicants also. There were a total of 5 Socials throughout A City of Excellence giving greater access to our residents and citizens. We were fortunate to have several members of our City Council, Nuisance Abatement Office, Seat Pleasant and County Police Departments were also on-hand to respond to concerns raised by our residents.

Our new city administrator, Mr. **Vincent Jones** attended every social introducing himself and giving a mini presentation on his priorities as the head of the day-to-day operations of our city. I wish to give special acknowledgement to our youth who assisted with the socials. In particular I want to acknowledge **DaeShawn Evans**, a senior at School Without Walls and a Summer Youth Employee assigned to my office who actually coordinated each of the socials. I recognize **Sean Wilson**, a senior at Fairmount Heights High School who was in charge of flyer distribution. Last I want to mention **Sam Holis**, 7th grader at G. James Gholson and **Lawrence Evans**, 9th grader at Central High School who helped with set-up and flyer distribution. We have wonderful young people in A City of Excellence!



As many of you are aware, these are critical times economically, socially and politically. Families are stressed because of the Global recession. There are families who are struggling to pay their bills. Some of our neighbors have been having a difficult time balancing their limited financial resources. Many are still facing foreclosure, cut back in hours at work and the loss of a job. There are also health issues and high costs associated with dealing with these concerns. These are troublesome times for many of our neighbors. The **Mayor's Tuesday Night Socials** are meant to serve as an opportunity to help our neighbors. It is a time where we try to bring resources to our community for their benefit.

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(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONT'D.)

To that end, I wish to thank all of our sponsors. Were it not for our sponsors we would not have been able to have the successful Socials that we did. Below is a list of the 2011 Mayor's Tuesday Night Socials' sponsors.

Safeway
IGA
Shoppers Food Warehouse
Washington Gas
Safe Link
Giant of Maryland, LLC
Pepco

If you were not able to attend this year's socials we look forward to seeing you next year for the **2012 Mayor's Tuesday Night Socials**. I encourage each of you to get more involved in the activities of our city as we are working toward becoming **A City of Excellence**!

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



The City Council has passed the following legislations in the month of August

RESOLUTION R-12-01

Resolution to Approve the designation for the City of Seat Pleasant as Sustainable Community as described in the Sustainable Community application.

RESOLUTION R-12-02

Resolution for the purpose of exempting the purchase of heat pump for the HVAC system from the City's competitive bidding in accordance with Chapter 39 of the City Code book.

ORDINANCE O-12-03

Ordinance for the purpose of enacting a new ethics ordinance for the City of Seat Pleasant to comply with requirements of Maryland law; to provide certain statements of policy and definitions; to provide for a City Ethics Commission and that the members of the current Board of Ethics will continue to serve as the new Ethics Commission for a certain duration.

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

City Hall
6301 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

A WORD FROM COUNCILWOMAN ELENORA SIMMS



There was an error in the City's welcome package about my e-mail address. The error has been corrected but in the meantime my correct e-mail address is **elenoras301@aol.com**.

Remember to stay safe - When someone comes to your door make sure they are properly identified. When you observe suspicious activity in your neighborhood call the Police non-emergency number at 301-352-1200. If there is an emergency call 911.

Last but not least, as this is the season for mosquitoes, make sure there is not standing water in containers and call 301-927-8357 or 301-909-6362 to have your area sprayed.



CITY HIRES A NEW CITY AMINISTRATOR

After an extensive search, the City has hired a New City Administrator. Vincent Jones, the former assistant administrator for Hyattsville began his tenure with the City in June. While working for Hyattsville, he led initiatives such as relaunching the city's website and introduction of once a week trash collection. He also served as an interim recreation director as well as an interim public works director. Before Hyattsville, he was an Assistant to the City manager in Evanston, Illinois and a budget analyst for the Maryland State Government. He holds an M.P.A. from Florida State University.

POLICE CRIME STATISTICS FOR JULY

Below are the crime statistics for the City of Seat Pleasant for the month of July. The August report will be posted in the next issue. Following the crime statistics are tips to help combat breaking and entering and larceny which are up.

Classification of Offenses	Offenses reported or known to police (include unfounded and attempts)	Unfounded i.e. false or baseless complaints	Number of Actual Offenses	Total Offenses cleared by arrests or exceptional means	Number of clearances including only persons under 18
1. Criminal Homicide Total	0	0	0	0	0
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter by negligence	0	0	0	0	0
2. Forcible Rape Total	0	0	0	0	0
Rape by force	0	0	0	0	0
Assault to rape attempts	0	0	0	0	0
3. Robbery Total	0	0	0	0	0
Firearm	0	0	0	0	0
Knife or cutting instrument	0	0	0	0	0
Other dangerous weapon	0	0	0	0	0
Strong-arm (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
4. Assault Total	6	0	6	3	1
Firearms	0	0	0	0	0
Knife or cutting instrument	0	0	0	0	0
Other dangerous weapon	0	0	0	0	0
Hands, fists, feet, etc.- aggravated	1	0	1	0	0
Hands, fists, feet, etc. - simple	5	0	5	3	1
5. Breaking and Entering Total	4	0	4	1	0
Forcible entry	4	0	4	1	0
Unlawful entry – no force	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted forcible entry	0	0	0	0	0
6. Larceny – Theft Total	10	0	10	1	0
7. Motor Vehicle Theft Total	1	0	1	0	0
Autos	1	0	1	0	0
Trucks and Buses	0	0	0	0	0
Other Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	21	0	21	5	1

HOME INVASION/BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

- Always secure your doors and windows.
- Garages and door walls are targets for thieves.
- Always ensure your garage door and pedestrian doors are secured.
- Do not leave garage door remote controls in cars not parked in the garage
- Use 1 ½ dowel rod in the track of all sliding glass windows and doors to help prevent them from opening.

SAFETY TIPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

(SAFETY TIPS CONT'D)

- It has been proven time and time again that the proper use and application of physical security will stop a would-be burglar.
- Burglary alarms are only as reliable as the person setting them. If you have an alarm, make sure that every resident or employee knows how to activate and deactivate it, as well as the security code.

PREVENTING THEFT FROM YOUR CAR

- Choose a parking spot wisely - The ideal parking space involves as much traffic around it as possible, the more people around, the least likely your car will be broken into
- Have a car alarm installed
- Remove all valuables
- Leave your car as "open looking" as possible - Leave your console, glove compartment, and other cubby holes open so that when someone looks inside your car they will see nothing worth taking
- If you become a victim of theft make sure the first thing you do is file a police report, the sooner, the better.



THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL NITE OUT ON AUGUST 2, 2011. YOUR PARTICIPATION SHOWS YOUR SUPPORT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY.



THE STATE OF MARYLAND HOMEOWNERS' PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The Homeowners' Tax Credit Program provides credits against State and local real property for homeowners who qualify based on a sliding scale of property tax liability and income. The Homeowners Tax Credit Program is a State funded program, where the State reimburses local governments for the cost of the tax credit against local property. This program was initiated in 1975, was originally limited to homeowner's age 60 and older and homeowners with disabilities. This program was expanded to homeowners of all ages in 1978. The last change to the tax credit program occurred in 2004. This legislative initiative changed the Property Tax Credit to bring it in line with inflationary increases in property values since 1998. It is worth pointing out that according to Maryland State Department of Taxation and Assessment currently only 165 residents participate in this program. An additional 70 Seat Pleasant residents are eligible for the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit at a net savings of \$610 per resident. The State of Maryland's Property Tax Credit Program is 100% supported by State of Maryland. The deadline for submitting the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application is September 1, 2010. The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Eligibility application can be completed one of three ways listed below:

By Mailing the application to the address below

By Using the online Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application (Application online is due September 1, 2010). By Printing and mailing the pdf application on the State Department of Assessment and Taxation web site <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation mailing address is:

**Department of Assessment and Taxation Homeowners' Tax Credit Program
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore Maryland 21201**

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation web site is:

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(TAX CREDIT CONT'D)

<http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation phone number is:
1- 410-767-4433.

If you have any questions please contact Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer 301/336-2600 extension 2230.

A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement and Nuisance Abatement work together to curb code violations in the City. The Office is now issuing citations by Ward. This means we will visit every ward to identify violations. The following week office personnel will inspect the violations that were written the previous week. Inspections will be conducted by Ward in keeping with the same schedule as the previous week. If any violation has not been abated a Municipal Infraction will be written.



The majority of violations written last month were for high grass, weeds on the fence, weeds along the fence line, unregistered vehicles, vehicle parked on the grass and commercial vehicles parked in residential areas. There were some houses that had oxidation that needed to be powered washed and or painted and fences that were damaged and rusted. A few cracked retaining walls needed repair.

Residents are encouraged to maintain and remove the grass along and up to the curb line from all along their property line, front, side and back. This includes maintaining the property during winter months.

With recent thunderstorms, there have been some calls about tree limbs, branches, hedges and bushes that protrude from a neighbor's property. If a tree or tree limb falls onto your property from a neighbor's property you are responsible for removing it. It may be considered by insurance companies as an **Act of God**. An **Act of God** is a legal term for events outside of human control, such as sudden floods or other natural disasters, for which no one can be held responsible.

Fall is fast approaching and leaves will be falling. When you rake leaves, put them in a plastic bag, and place them curb side. Bates Trucking, the City's trash company will pick them up on Wednesdays. The Department of Public Works also removes leaves that are raked to the curb.

SAFETY TIPS FOR SENIORS

FROM CPAC

More and more seniors in Seat Pleasant and other communities choose to live on their own these days. With all of the terrible things happening to seniors throughout the region, please keep in touch with them (and all of your neighbors) on a regular basis. Here are 10 tips that can help seniors live safely. They are actually great tips for everyone!



1. **Avoid slippery conditions:** Make sure floors aren't slippery. Put down non-slip floor mats in your bathrooms and install safety bars (also known as 'grab bars') in bath tubs and showers and next to toilets.
2. **Remove tripping hazards:** Keep sidewalks and paths clear. Also, watch out for rugs that don't lie flat and other things that commonly cause falls within the home.

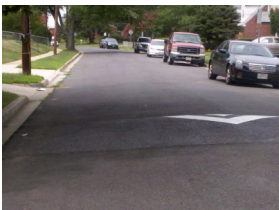
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(SAFETY TIPS FOR SENIORS CONT'D.)

2. **Remove tripping hazards:** Keep sidewalks and paths clear. Also, watch out for rugs that don't lie flat and other things that commonly cause falls within the home.
3. **Use a medical alert system:** If you can, think about getting a medical alert system that will notify authorities if something should happen to you.
4. **Get to know your neighbors:** You don't have to be best friends, but if you and your neighbors get to know each other, you're all more likely to notice when something is not right.
5. **Test smoke alarms regularly:** Your alarms only protect you if they have fresh batteries and are operating properly. They save lives!
6. **Organize a daily check-in:** Ask a relative or friend to call each day to make sure everything is okay. You can offer to do the same for them.
7. **Don't place items in hard to reach places:** Keep the things you need within easy-to-reach. Climbing to get to items in high places is another common cause of falls.
8. **Lock your door:** Keep unwanted people from entering your house.
9. **Keep lists of medications, allergies and personal information:** This information can be invaluable to emergency medical personnel when they come to your home, especially if you're unconscious or unable to communicate.
10. **Cooking timers:** It is so easy to forget that you've placed something on the stove. When cooking, simply set the timer as a gentle reminder that your food is done and that the stove is on.

As always, CPAC wants to keep you safe. Email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com if you have questions, concerns, or just want more information.

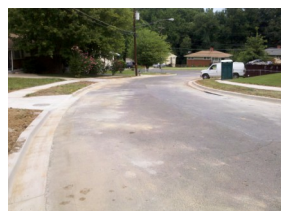
A WORD FROM PUBLIC WORKS



Adak Street

STREET REPAIR

Street repairs funded by Prince George's County Community Development Block Grant have come to an end. New curbs, sidewalks, aprons were installed and new asphalt was put on the streets. Streets included in the work were Greig Court, 71st Court, Field Street alley, and Adak Street. Speed bumps were installed on G Street between Joplin and Birchleaf Avenue.



71st Court



Greig Court

PEPCO

Pepco has finished all of their work on Addison Road. The work was a trying time for all but due to the resilience of the Public Works Department, the streets were milled earlier as well as striping along the street before the intersection of Addison Road and Seat Pleasant Drive.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The City has been experiencing a problem with improper yard waste preparation for collection by the City's trash company. Unfortunately, there is a misconception that the Public Works Department is responsible for yard waste collection. Yard waste can be collected for free by the City's trash collection company. It is very costly for the City to collect yard waste that has already been assigned for collection by its contractor. Yard waste must be placed in a heavy duty plastic bag or a heavy duty trash can with handles and a secure lid. Limbs must not exceed 4 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter and must be securely tied in bundles. Bundles of limbs and bags of dry grass and leaves must weigh less than 60 pounds. Wet leaves and grass must weigh less than 25 pounds. Yard waste is collected on Wednesdays.

(PUBLIC WORKS CONT'D.)**BULK TRASH**

All bulk trash is collected by appointment only on Wednesday. To schedule a pick up contact Bates at 301-773-2069 or 301-699-3073 by 2 p.m. Tuesday. Bates is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The City pays for bulk trash services and yard waste services but if residents fail to utilize those services, the City pays for it twice. We are asking residents for their help in curtailing this problem.

SEAT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS**SAVE THE DATE!**

On Saturday September 10, 2010 at 1:00pm at 6305 Addison Rd Seat Pleasant MD 20743 The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting our 1st Annual Crab Feast! This event allows us to open our doors and meet with members of the community and surrounding areas, raise some money to keep the fire trucks moving, and have a little fun! The prices are as follows \$45.00 in advance, \$55.00 at the door, \$25.00 for ages 12 & under, and an addition \$10.00 for unlimited cups of beer. The \$45.00 covers all you can eat crabs, hot dogs and hamburgers and we hope to see you there!

KEEP SEAT PLEASANT IN SEAT PLEASANT!!!

If you haven't heard, the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department has made the decision to move the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company OUT of Seat Pleasant to the Capitol Heights/Ritchie line at Central Ave and Shady Glen Dr (Hill Rd). The move would make the response time to residents of Seat Pleasant greater. Our firehouse is based at a great central location so that we can respond towards Land-over, Chapel Oaks, Capitol Heights, District Heights, etc. If this move happens, it would take approx 4-6 additional minutes for an ambulance to save your sick grandfather or a fire truck to put the fire out in your house. Those numbers are UNACCEPTABLE! President Marcus Jones is working with a local community activist group called PRISM to get the word to the community about the move. Over the next few weeks, you will hear a lot more information about this move.

RESCUE SQUAD 8

Recently, the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department made the horrible decision to remove the Rescue Squad from the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company. A Rescue Squad is basically a tool box on wheels. It is used to rescue people from being trapped. It's more popularly known for the "Jaws of Life". The reason we were told the Squad was removed is because we are not busy. Firehouse Magazine did a article on the busiest fire stations in the Country and to our surprise Rescue Squad 8 was named the 14th busiest squad in the Country making us the busiest squad in the county. With this vital piece of equipment being gone, it will take almost 10 minutes for a Rescue squad to respond in the event you are pinned in your car after a car accident, or in need of extraction. This is also unacceptable.

We need to hear your concerns about these issues. If you have any questions about the move or any comments you have numerous ways to let us know. give us a call at 301-836-1957, email me at phil.martin@seatpleasantfire.com, or send us a letter to: 6305 Addison Rd Seat Pleasant MD 20743 attn: Public Relations. We'd love to hear from you! Until next time Seat Pleasant, be safe and be blessed!

-Phil L. Martin Jr.

Public Information Officer

Community Outreach and Public Relations

Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company

Facebook us " Seat PleasantVolunteer Fire Company"

Follow us on Twitter " eng8sqd"

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
PERMIT #235

UNPAID TAXES?.....SLOW DOWN



The Motor Vehicle Administration, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), and the Comptroller are partnering to make sure that everyone pays their fair share. Effective June 1, 2011

State law requires that individuals and business that have unpaid, undisputed state tax liabilities and/or unpaid unemployment insurance Contributions satisfy the debt(s) prior to renewing a Maryland Driver's License or vehicle registration.

If you have unpaid taxes and are not already in an approved payment plan, you can make payment arrangements online at our website, www.marylandtaxes.com, by calling the Comptroller's Collection Unit toll free at 855-213-6669, or in person at one of the Comptroller's 12 local Branch offices. If your business has **unpaid unemployment insurance contributions and is not already in an approved payment plan**, you can make payment arrangement by Contacting DLLR at **410-767-2699** or via email at licnrlase@dllr.state.md.us.

Don't let unpaid taxes slow you down!

For additional information visit

www.Marylandtaxes.com or

Landover Treetops Bldg.

8181 Professional Place, Suite 101

Telephone Number: 301- 459-9195

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEAT PLEASANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S
ANNUAL CRAB FEAST

SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

1 P.M.

6305 ADDISON ROAD

SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND 20743 Call 301-386-1957

SENIOR CITIZEN INFORMATION SESSION

LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL SCAMS

SEPTEMBER 21ST , 2011

10 A.M. @ SEAT PLEASANT CITY HALL

6301 ADDISON ROAD

SEAT PLEASANT MARYLAND

Space limited –call to reserve your seat 301-336-2600

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 11, 2011

10 A.M.

SEAT PLEASANT ACTIVITY CENTER

5720 ADDISON ROAD

SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND